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Districts

ANNUAL REPORT

of the


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year

1959



-
- ✓ HENLEY BOROUGH, p. 16.
 - ✓ BICESTER URBAN DISTRICT, p. 22.
 - ✓ THAME URBAN DISTRICT, p. 29.
 - ✓ BULLINGDON RURAL DISTRICT, p. 34.
 - ✓ HENLEY RURAL DISTRICT, p. 45.
 - ✓ PLOUGHLEY RURAL DISTRICT, p. 52.
-



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
OF THE SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE COMBINED DISTRICTS
FOR 1959.

To the Mayor, Chairmen, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Constituent Authorities...

My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present, herewith, my ninth annual report on the state of the Public Health in the South Oxfordshire Combined Districts so far as I am able to assess it having regard to the limitations placed upon me both by the Ministry and the Joint Committee.

The Ministry have directed that this report (which incorporates the information required by Circular 1/60) shall appear as early in the year as possible and the Joint Committee have desired me to produce a cheap report. In complying with both these directives I must, in self-defence, put on record that the result, while doubtless no worse than several others and possibly even a bargain at the price, is no more than a partial and parochial pamphlet and not, as it should be, a record of all the relevant information which could be gathered about the health of the inhabitants of your area. Should any member doubt this, I shall be pleased to furnish him or her with a copy of my 1955 or 1956 report for the purposes of comparison.

ABBREVIATIONS : C.D.: **Combined Districts.** E.W.: **England and Wales.**
F.: **Female.** L.A.: **Local Authority.** M.: **Male.** The
Ministry: **The appropriate Ministry.** M.O.H.: **Medical
Officer of Health.** P.H.I.: **Public Health Inspector.**
R.D.: **Rural District.** R.G.: **Registrar General.**
T.: **Total.** U.D.: **Urban District.**
Figures in brackets are for 1958.

VITAL STATISTICS

Note: Some of the vital statistics for 1959 did not reach me until these last days of April. The E.W. Death Rates for individual diseases are not furnished by the General Register Office (for all its computers and sorting machines) until **July** of the following year and although these are of great significance for the purpose of comparison with local conditions I am no longer able to wait for them, and your report is thus incomplete.

POPULATION :

The Mid-year 1959 home population as estimated by the R.G. totalled 109,150 (105,990) distributed as follows:—

Henley Borough	...	8470	(8020)
Bicester U.D.	...	5900	(5860)
Thame U.D.	...	3750	(3720)
Bullington R.D.	...	40660	(39600)
Henley R.D.	...	21430	(20880)
Ploughley R.D.	...	28940	(27910)

LIVE BIRTHS :

There were 1067 M and 1077 F, totalling 2144. These are itemised under the various L.A.s and give a Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population of 19.6 (19.1) compared with a **provisional** E.W. figure of 16.5. Only Thame, with a rate of 13.6, falls much below the national figure, Henley Borough being only fractionally below, at 16.4.

ILLEGITIMACY RATE :

The number of illegitimate births was up by almost a third, 91 as opposed to 68, giving an illegitimacy rate of 4.2% as against 3.5% in 1958. This is discouraging, particularly when it is realised that the number of troops, fed-up and far-from-home, has diminished in the area during the interval.

It is fashionable, in certain interested quarters, to proclaim that nothing seen, heard or read by the young has any deleterious effect on morals or behaviour. How this can be maintained when, contrariwise, individual lives and sometimes the lives of whole communities and even nations, have undeniably been influenced for **good** by the great social and religious reformers, I do not know. Of course it is very convenient, and profitable, to see no more than a safety-valve in the violence and sexuality portrayed from day to day on the telly and the films (but unfortunately children who have wounded and even murdered other children testify in court that they saw it on the telly or the screen). The radio contributes its share, but less so because it is not owned by commercial interests and therefore doesn't have to rely on the lowest common denominator for its audience. But what is "rock," if it isn't sublimated sex, and very inefficiently sublimated too? Above all there is a festering mass of paperback pornography or near-pornography which, confined yesterday to sleazy backstreet stationers, has now emerged to cram the shelves of some of our hitherto responsible booksellers. The stage, too, has recently contributed some pretty sickening sniggers about sex and in particular about perversion.

These things can't be waved away with facile excuses about the undesirability of a censorship. They titillate, they excite and they **incite**. Such sociologists and educationalists as I have met, have no doubts on that score.

STILL BIRTHS :

There were 16 M and 13 F, all legitimate. These, itemised under the individual L.A.s, give a still birth rate for the area of 13.3 per 1,000 total (live and still) births, compared with the provisional E.W. figure of 20.7. Each L.A. in the area has a rate more favourable than the **provisional** E.W. rate.

TOTAL (LIVE AND STILL) BIRTHS :

1083 M and 1090 F, totalling 2173.

DEATHS :

There were 581 M and 474 F, totalling 1055. These are itemised under the various authorities and give a death rate per 1,000 population of 9.7 (9.1) as compared with the E.W. rate of 11.0 (11.7).

Principal Group Causes of Death:

	M	F	T	As a percentage of all deaths.
Heart disease	251	223	474	44.9
Cancer (all forms)	102	89	191	18.1
Chest disease (excluding T.B.)	66	55	121	11.5
Principal Individual Causes of Death:				
Coronary disease	108	55	163	15.5
Vascular lesions of the nervous system, including "stroke"	71	78	149	14.1
Pneumonia	35	39	74	7.0
Bronchitis	26	11	37	3.5
Lung Cancer	29	5	34	3.2
				(Total)
				Males only 5.0

The Deaths figures are paradoxically one of the most important of health pointers and it is therefore particularly unfortunate that the necessity to rush this report into print precludes me from making full use of them. It is precious little use knowing that in 1959 there were x more or fewer deaths in the C.D. from cause y than there were in 1958, if this fact cannot be related to the national trend. The local M.O.H. is almost certainly the only person sufficiently interested to do this. The Minister has almost 700 different L.A.s in E.W. to cope with !

Under the existing arrangements I am unable to give you the answers to such questions as these:

1. Has Coronary Disease become the most common killer throughout the country as it has, for the first time, in 1959, in your area ? Or should we look for local factors—increasing industrialisation, for instance ?
2. How important is it that deaths from Lung Cancer in the C.D. have suddenly **dropped** during 1959 by nearly 23% as compared with the 1958 figure, after having shown a steady rise for a number of years ?

In the latter instance has some new factor arisen in the C.D. or E.W. (or both) which has made tobacco-smoking suddenly less lethal ? Certainly it is not a decrease in consumption for, not unnaturally, every nerve is being strained by the big combines to keep the home fires smouldering and to light as many new ones as possible. In this connection there is, to my mind, something peculiarly shocking (or perhaps I am squeamish?) in advertisements aimed specifically at making addicts out of adolescents. One which I have in mind is a photograph of a group of nice kids, none out of their teens. They are exhorted to "smoke the BIG way, the MODERN way"—the implication being, I suppose, twofold—that it is grown-up to smoke and that a filter-tip cigarette is less dangerous than an untipped one. But there is, so far as I know, no concrete evidence to support this latter suggestion and the primary object is, of course, to implant a tobacco-craving which, it is hoped, will rapidly become irresistible, lifelong, and lucrative to the adver-

tiser. A second poster shows a couple of frank-faced youngsters, decent manly lads who, presumably, are half-way to addiction already. One is lighting a cigarette while the other is screwing up his eyes to keep the tobacco-smoke out of them—for both his hands are occupied polishing a car and he cannot spare a moment to take the fag from his lips. Never mind, no need to, suggests the caption. You can smoke while you're working as well as in between times. "Always a pleasure to work with." I suppose it is only a question of time before some company perfects a technique for smoking while you're asleep, thus giving the full twenty-four hours coverage.

Any counterblast? Of course not! There isn't a magazine or a newspaper of any circulation throughout the land which could face the loss of tobacco-advertising revenue certain to follow the publication of realistic, factual anti-smoking advertisements, even if the government had had the guts to issue any.

Deaths from lung cancer, despite the decline referred to still, in 1959, outnumbered Road Deaths by almost fifty per cent.

ROAD DEATHS :

Twenty-four as compared with twenty in 1958—twenty-four good lives, many scarcely begun, chucked away. Once more I am hamstrung by the Minister's hurry and can't tell you whether or not these figures are mirrored by the country as a whole. There is no doubt, however, that motor-cyclists are involved in a high proportion of road accidents, many disabling, some fatal. There is also no doubt that the ludicrously disproportionate wages paid by the big factories in Oxford and Bullingdon to youths straight out of school have resulted in, among other nuisances, a plague of powerful motor-cycles many of which are ridden flat-out, and not always outside the 30 miles limit, with the minimum of courtesy and imagination and the maximum of noise and provocation. No one can tell the young anything, and with the police force continuing below strength there is not likely to be any early improvement in road manners, road-sense or the road accident figures. The tragedy is the greater because the innocent are so often involved by the guilty. I have the impression, too, that this *jeunesse* quite literally *d'oreé* regards the wearing of crash-helmets as sissy or milky or square or whatever the jargon of the moment may be. Heaven knows the skulls concerned are thick enough, but not **that** thick, surely?

THE GENERAL DEATH RATE is slightly up in the CD. as compared with 1958 and very slightly down in EW. All the constituent authorities, however, except Thame, are below the national figure. In Thame, deaths increased by 25% as compared with 1958, but the total number of deaths was not large and the increase was scattered over a variety of causes, including 4 suicides whereas 1958 showed none.

MATERNAL DEATHS :

Once again there were no maternal deaths in the area and consequently no maternal mortality rate. The E.W. rate is not yet published for 1959. In the present decade only 4 maternal deaths have been recorded in the C.D. in a total of no less than 18,066 births. This gives an average maternal mortality rate of

0.22 per 1,000 total births (just about half the national figure). This must in very large measure be due to the County Midwifery Service.

INFANT DEATHS AND INFANT MORTALITY RATE :

Not quite such a happy picture. A rise of 23% (from 34 to 44—30 M and 14 F) and a corresponding rise in the rate per 1,000 live births from 17.8 to 20.5. This, however, is still below the **provisional E.W.** figure of 22.0.

The C.D. rate is subdivisible as follows:—

- 1. Legitimate infant mortality rate, per 1,000 legitimate live births. 20.4.
- 2. Illegitimate infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births. 22.0.

The Minister asks for these figures but the R.G. does not furnish the E.W. rates for comparison.

NEONATAL DEATHS (Deaths in the first 4 weeks) AND
NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE :

For the C.D. 27 deaths—18 M and 9 F.

Rates per 1,000 live births	TOTAL	12.6
	LEGITIMATE	12.2
	ILLEGITIMATE	22.0

The illegitimate rate is based on only 2 deaths and should therefore be accepted with reserve.

No figures for E.W. are yet available for purposes of comparison.

EARLY NEONATAL DEATHS (under 1 week) AND EARLY
NEONATAL MORTALITY :

For the C.D. 24 deaths—15 M and 9 F.

Rates per 1,000 live births:	Total	... 11.2
	Legitimate	... 10.7
	Illegitimate	... 22.0

Here again the Illegitimate rate is calculated on 2 deaths only. These figures show very clearly that the risk of death is proportionately very much highest in the first week.

No figures for E.W. are available for comparison.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES
(Other than Tuberculosis q.v.)

	M	F	T
Measles	978	965	1943
Scarlet Fever	52	47	99
Pneumonia	28	35	63
Dysentery (Sonné)	6	7	13
Whooping Cough	28	20	48
Erysipelas	2	1	3
Food Poisoning	7	4	11
Poliomyelitis	1	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	5	5
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	1
Malaria (ex-overseas)	1	—	1
	1105	1084	2189

MEASLES—

is a biennial disease and the expected upward swing was seen.

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of cases notified was up by almost half as compared with the 1958 figure. Scarlet Fever is at the moment so mild as to be an inconvenience rather than a menace. It can of course be spread widely through unpasteurised milk but such epidemics are becoming less and less common as the scope of pasteurisation increases. In the view of many M.Os.H. (including yours) scarlet fever should no longer be a notifiable disease. Practitioners in the main undoubtedly dislike the bother of notifying relatively innocuous diseases. The objection to denotification is that scarlet fever may at any time change its virulence and become once more a serious disease. Such a change, however, would not in my view be likely long to escape the observation of practitioners and the M.Os.H., and renotification could be enacted overnight by the Ministry.

DYSENTERY.

There is no doubt in the minds of all the M.Os.H. I know that only a small fraction of cases of Dysentery occurring up and down the land—and more particularly in rural areas where “the trots” are regarded almost as a part of everyday life—ever seek medical advice. And of those that do, not all, by any means, are notified. Indeed, in my experience, practitioners are often as philosophical about the matter as are the country folk themselves, and quite a number do not realise that it **is** a notifiable disease. I pick up a number of cases from the bacteriological reports of the Public Health Laboratory, copies of which are sent simultaneously to practitioner and M.O.H.

The vast preponderance of Dysentery cases in E.W. are, thank goodness, of the comparatively mild Sonn  type. This can spread like wildfire particularly among children and, unless the M.O.H. is promptly notified of the first few cases occurring in a community, the school population may quickly become so heavily infected as to make exclusion of contacts pointless from a preventive angle. An added complication is the persistent carrier after the clinical attack is over; such carriers make things even more difficult by producing stools which are intermittently free from germs when in fact they are still harbouring them somewhere in the intestine to be released, as active as ever, at a later date.

It is indeed fortunate, then, that Sonn  Dysentery is so mild an affliction. To get a rough estimate of the number of cases occurring as compared with the number notified I would add a nought to the latter figure.

FOOD POISONING.

Considering the long, dry, hot summer, the C.D. were most lucky to have only 10 notified cases of Food Poisoning. These were distributed as follows:—

Bullingdon 6, Henley R.D. 3, Ploughley R.D. 1.

The Bullingdon series were all individual cases, five being caused by **Salmonella typhi-murium** and one, in a child a year old, by **Salmonella Newport**. In no case was it possible to incriminate any foodstuff.

The three Henley R.D. cases were all in one family and one of the sufferers worked in a school kitchen. A careful watch was kept and no secondary cases developed. The causal agent was once more **Salmonella typhi-murium**. No food could be incriminated; as so often happens, by the time the diagnosis had been established and the case notified, the left-overs of all food taken during the incubation period had been disposed of.

The Ploughley Salmonella case, **S. St. Paul** occurred in a young child. This Salmonella is rare in Oxfordshire although known in Dorset and Gloucestershire and then almost invariably associated with pork and pork products. Investigation of the present case failed to disclose any contact with farm animals in any of the family. Although pork sausages had been eaten during the incubation period no residual sample was obtainable. This again proved an isolated case.

An incident in Henley Borough presented certain features of interest. The stool of a child in hospital, examined as a routine, was found to contain **Salmonella bovis morbificans**, although the child was not suffering from intestinal trouble. This Salmonella is not at all common in the British Isles. Specimens from twelve contacts were examined and one, from a foreign girl who had helped to look after the child, showed the same Salmonella. The girl in question had had 'an intestinal complaint' some considerable time previously before coming to England and had recovered after treatment. The presumption is that she had become a chronic carrier. The appropriate measures were taken and no secondary cases were reported.

POLIOMYELITIS.

Happily only one case, but unhappily a very serious one (though not fatal) in an adult uninoculated male in the prime of life. The overall picture of polio in EW. during 1959 was encouraging, both paralytic and non-paralytic cases being about half those occurring in 1958 (in brackets). 773 (1410) paralytic and 289 (587) non-paralytic. This is particularly gratifying in view of the fact that it was a very hot summer, usually considered bad for polio.

BRUCELLOSIS.

This is not a notifiable disease as yet. It is primarily a disease of cattle but can be transmitted to humans who drink raw, infected milk. The human form of the disease is known as Abortus Fever, occasionally proves fatal and often gives rise to long debility and chronic sub-health. There have been cases in the area. I have been privileged to sit with a Brucella Abortus Technical Group under the chairmanship of Dr. P. W. Bothwell, recently Deputy County Medical Officer for Oxfordshire. This group has made certain recommendations to the Ministry, including the desirability of making the disease notifiable both in its bovine and human form, and is awaiting the Minister's reply. The group has members from the Public Health Laboratories, the Agricultural Research Council, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Oxfordshire County Council, and a general practitioner in the South Oxfordshire area who is particularly interested in this disease is also on the Committee.

PROTECTIVE INOCULATIONS.

Smallpox vaccination, Triple antigen (Diphtheria—Whooping Cough—Tetanus), Poliomyelitis and B.C.G. are all available through the County Health Services. I have been happy to assist the County Medical Officer in the giving of anti-poliomyelitis and B.C.G. injections.

DIPHTHERIA.

Although no cases of diphtheria were notified during the year in the area, reservoirs of infection must persist throughout the country. 103 cases were notified in E.W. in 1959 as compared with 79 in 1958. Protective inoculation, so readily obtainable, is therefore as necessary as ever.

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

4 were notified during the year. One was from Poliomyelitis in a man who had originally contracted the disease before the beginning of 1959. One was from Meningococcal Meningitis. Two were classified by the Registrar General as "Other infective and parasitic diseases."

SYPHILITIC DISEASE.

Three male deaths were recorded in the area during the year. No indication is given as to whether the disease was chronic or acute.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases notified during 1959 numbered 67 (58 Pulmonary and 9 Non-pulmonary). See also under individual L.A.s.

Deaths numbered 6 (5 Pulmonary and 1 Non-Pulmonary). See also under the individual L.A.s.

The Mass Miniature Radiography Service's two units at Reading and Northampton have again been active and successful throughout the area.

The Care Committee of the Oxfordshire Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis has met frequently throughout the year and I have been privileged to sit on it.

HOUSING.

In 1959 the constituent authorities built 104 dwellings (see under the individual L.A.s) and houses completed during the year by private enterprise totalled 622. I have to acknowledge with grateful thanks the help of various housing selection committees to whom I have applied for special consideration where I considered the medical circumstances made this urgent.

SUB-STANDARD HOUSING.

At the end of 1959 there were 986 licensed caravans in the C.D. 771 of these were on 147 licensed sites and 215 on individual licence renewable annually. It should be noted, however, that 505 of the 771 were in Bullington R.D. where even single caravans are issued with site licences.

There has been an overall increase of 10% in officially licensed sub-standard housing in the C.D. during the year. What is more sinister is that there are, **in addition** to the above, 226 caravans on 9 unlicensed sites (including 182 on 5 sites at Old Marston; 19 at Benson and 11 remaining at the notorious Shiplake sham-

bles). This of course is a shocking and scandalous state of affairs due entirely to governmental failure over many years to give the L.A.s any real powers to deal with the situation. Now, at long last, inspired doubtless by the very excellent and forthright report "Caravans as Homes" by Sir Arton Wilson, K.B.E., C.B. (July 1959, H.M. Stationery Office 5s. 0d.), new legislation is envisaged and the golden days of the worst caravan speculators would seem to be numbered. And high time too, for it has been a particularly callous and conscienceless racket.

Nevertheless at the end of the year there were in your area 1212 units of substandard accommodation, some willingly accepted, but the majority accepted only as a measure of desperation. (Sir Arton Wilson estimates that no fewer than 4 out of 5 of all caravanners throughout E.W. wish to live in houses, as against the 1957 Survey of the C.D., which showed 2 out of 3).

Details of the Bullingdon municipal site are given on page 38.

There are 91 huts in the C.D., but 79 of these at the Slade are administered by the City of Oxford. Of the remainder, 8 are at Dorchester and 4 at Whitechurch. There is, therefore, no longer a hut problem in the C.D.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1936. Public Swimming Baths.

The Minister requires details of the public swimming baths in the area. There are two, one in Bicester U.D. and one in Ploughley R.D. The "Henley" baths are situated in the Wokingham R.D.

The Bicester bath: Whilst not satisfactory from every aspect this is much better than it was a year ago. The information required by the Minister is as hereunder:—

1. Source of water, old brewery yard well. It seems necessary to continue using this source until such times as we can improve the domestic supplies situation.
2. Full Chlorination treatment, and filtration, complete water pass-through every 6 hours, pumps rating 25,000 g.p.h.
3. Water lowered and refilled (in season) 8in. each day which results in a theoretical refill of the baths every 4 days feeding in at the shallow end and taking out at the deep. The addition of the cold water has the added effect of keeping the temperature at a low enough level to discourage children wishing to stay in the bath all day. A session system is to be put into operation at the weekends and during the summer holiday.
4. No bacteriological samples but chlorine tests are taken on the comparator system.

The Ploughley R.D. bath: This is at Weston Manor Hotel, Weston-on-the-Green. The required details are appended:—

1. The source of water used for filling the bath—Council water main.
2. The method of treatment—dosing with "Chloros" and alumina in conjunction with a re-circulatory filter.
3. The frequency of changing the water—this is rendered unnecessary under normal conditions due to the filtration

and changes are therefore only made at the start of a new season and when there is gross contamination.

4. Bacteriological samples—none were taken during the year ended 31st December, 1959.

The bath and its treatment plant are at present in the course of renovation and repair.

PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION.

As the expectation of life lengthens, the population contains a growing percentage of old persons. There seems to be an increasing indifference on the part of the young towards the old. These two facts make it inevitable that more and more old folk will in future fall into the above category.

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act of 1948 is very carefully worded to throw the onus of the interpretation of its provisions almost entirely on the M.O.H. I have found that considerable ignorance and confusion prevail about it and I think it well to state what, in my view, it can and what it cannot do. Over a number of years I have been approached from time to time by various well-meaning individuals to “get old Mr. X or old Mrs. or Miss Y into a home,” sometimes on entirely inadequate grounds. Put in a nutshell, the law assumes, and perfectly properly in my opinion, that only in the most desperate circumstances is it right for persons to be ordered from their homes against their wills and put into hospitals or institutions. The actual wording of section 47 is as follows:—

(persons who)

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

Analysed, remarkably few people fulfil all the qualifications the Act requires. For instance:—

1. The law does not define “grave chronic disease,” but I have always taken this to mean more than mere senility.

Do hardened arteries, high blood pressure, senile weakness of the heart muscles or any combination of these constitute “grave chronic disease”? If so, a very high percentage of the population over 80 would qualify on that count (N.B., however; this subsection does not state that the person suffering from “grave chronic disease” shall necessarily be old).

What is meant by “proper care and attention”? Is it necessary, for example, to try to remove a person with high blood pressure because he or she is dirty and unkempt, possibly even verminous, provided that his or her condition does not endanger or cause nuisance to others? Note, too, the use of the word “unable.” Many old folk are perfectly “able” to wash themselves and cook a simple meal, but just can’t be bothered to do so. How much pressure can be put upon reluctant relatives to do something to help? Apart from moral suasion, nil.

2. What is the definition of "aged?" Should one apply the Biblical criterion of three score and ten? Some people are aged at fifty, others are scarcely more than middle-aged a quarter of a century later. Sir Winston Churchill was leading this country through its greatest crisis on his seventieth birthday. Somerset Maugham has been writing as lucidly as ever in his eighties, while Bertrand Russell is now nearing ninety.

What are meant by "infirm" and "physically incapacitated"? Do these terms mean bedridden? President Roosevelt was technically "infirm" in that he was partially paralysed following polio. A person on crutches is "physically incapacitated," but by no means helpless.

Finally, what are "insanitary conditions"? Isn't everyone whose water supply is from a polluted well (and that means virtually everyone who is dependent on well-water) "living in insanitary conditions"? And everyone who has a defective septic tank? Or a damp house?

An M.O.H. has to assess all these factors sometimes in a single visit. He must remember, too, that although a certain old person would to all appearance 'be far better off in a home,' the old person concerned can very rarely be made to see this. The house or room in which he or she lives may be bare and dirty, but, no matter how primitive, it **is** and probably has been for years, his or her room and private fortress. The person concerned wants, above all, freedom to eat or not when he or she wishes, to lie in bed until noon or walk about in the middle of the night and not to have life regulated in what, despite all improvements both in nomenclature and premises, is still regarded as "the workhouse" or "the institution." It has been my unhappy experience, furthermore, that a high percentage of people committed against their will to a hospital or home languish and soon die. Not always, it is true, some even take a new lease of life; not always, but sufficiently often to make one consider very gravely before putting the wheels in motion.

And these are the wheels. The M.O.H. has to decide with the aid of ice-bags, past experience and present commonsense that—

"he is satisfied, after thorough enquiry and consideration that in the interests of any such person as aforesaid residing in the area of the authority, or for preventing injury to the health of, or serious nuisance to, other persons, it is necessary to remove any such person as aforesaid from the premises in which he is residing."

Once more, a battery of debatable terms. What are "the interests of any such person"? Certainly not his or her happiness since such cases only come to court because of the obdurate and absolute refusal of the person concerned to go to a home voluntarily. As has been said, moreover, you can never be sure that an old person's health and well-being will be improved by removal; the M.O.H. must proceed always on a balance of probabilities.

How can a person "injure the health of other persons" by his or her way of life? Sometimes, it is true, premises get into such a state that vermin breed therein and invade neighbouring proper-

ties, but almost invariably such conditions can be cured by the L.A.'s pest officer. The R.S.P.C.A. can take action where domestic animals are neglected. Structural or drainage defects are the responsibility of the landlord or possibly of the L.A. itself. If you discover that an old person who is living alone and who is getting rather tottery, uses candles or paraffin, is the danger of fire—particularly where, as often happens with old people, stores of paper and rubbish have accumulated—sufficient reason to go to court, or is it the province of the fire officer? Do eccentricities of behaviour or outbursts of anger (the latter often caused by thoughtless cruelty of children who believe—or pretend to believe—that the old person is a witch) constitute a “serious nuisance”? And what about an overgrown and neglected garden showering the neighbours' land with weeds? These examples are not by any means hypothetical; all have occurred within my own experience.

Having decided that there is nothing for it but to go to court, the M.O.H. submits a certificate to this effect, in writing, to the Clerk of the L.A. concerned. This certificate is usually considered at the next meeting of the Public Health Committee. The Committee have to decide (assuming that they have delegated powers, which may not be so—in which case the matter must wait until the next meeting of the Council—) whether they will recommend the Clerk to proceed, or not. The wording of the act is that the “appropriate authority may apply to a court of summary jurisdiction.” The L.A. **may** apply; they do not **have** to apply. Usually they do apply.

There are no fewer than 10 forms to be served in connection with section 47 of the Act. The hospital or welfare officer has to be contacted with a view to obtaining accommodation, and this is by no means always easy to obtain. In one recent case of mine there wasn't a single hospital in the area with a bed vacant, and I had to go to an adjoining area with a wealth of telephoning to M.O.H., hospital, bed officer (thirty miles away in a third authority), ambulance depot, etc. etc. and the medical superintendent of the institution concerned was reluctant, to say the least of it (if I were less diplomatic I would say he was rude). Often the Welfare Officer's accommodation is full to bursting (there is almost always a waiting list for persons who are **willing** to go to a home) and he has the greatest difficulty in finding a bed. All sorts of conditions have to be satisfied. Forms to the clerk to the justices, seven days' notice to the person concerned of intention to proceed, notice to the superintendent of the institution selected.

If there has been no slip-up in all this extremely complicated procedure, the day of the hearing finds the M.O.H. in court. I don't know how it is with other M.O.sH., but I do know that no matter how cast-iron I imagine my case to be (and I don't ask my committee to go to court unless I am convinced that my case **is** cast-iron), I always feel by the end of the hearing that I am no more than a bully whose sole delight is to harry helpless folk who want only to be left alone and whose only bulwark against me is the magistrates. On one occasion, where a deputation of villagers had actually asked me to institute proceedings for the removal of an old lady in desperate circumstances, for their good as well as

hers, the very same villagers sent in a petition to the court saying that the proposed removal was cruel, unjust and unnecessary and that they would form a rota to cook, nurse and do the housework ! The old lady was committed by the magistrates who, in pronouncing their decision, thanked the deputation and hoped they would clean up the house in case the old lady improved sufficiently to return to it. The old lady unhappily went steadily down-hill, was removed from old person's home to hospital and there died. If she ever had been able to return to her house she would have found it much as she had left it, for out of the thirty petitioners exactly one visited it and tried to help.

When an order is made, it remains valid for three months and if at the expiry of this period the person committed wishes to return home, resort must be made again to the court for an extension of the order. In point of fact, few persons, once the break is made, do apply to go back home. On one occasion, however, a redoubtable old lady did apply for her discharge and the magistrates refused to extend the order. She duly went home where she deteriorated rapidly and I had to reinstitute proceedings from the beginning. In this connection I once knew a Clerk who said it was unnecessary ever to apply for a continuation order, on the grounds that the person concerned, being in an institution, was already receiving "proper care and attention"!

Occasionally cases occur so suddenly that it is not possible to wait for the next magistrates' Court and then action has to be taken under section 51 of the National Assistance Amendment Act—if the M.O.H. is authorised by his L.A. to do this, and not all L.A.s will give this authorisation. Section 51 requires the signature of a J.P. and a medical practitioner in addition to the M.O.H. and the order is then valid for three weeks only after which the full action under section 47 must be instituted.

Removal from home of an old person against his or her will is always a tragic business. Usually when at last it comes to the point little resistance is offered, but I remember one occasion when it took all day to effect the task, despite the monumental patience of the ambulance men and the help of the authorised officer. Indeed it needed the presence of the police to point out to a tired, bewildered but adamant old lady that in refusing to obey a court order she was breaking the law of the land and that force might have to be used.

I hope that these remarks will make it clear why the M.O.H.'s heart sinks when a voice on the telephone says "I want to consult you about an old person who ought not to be alone," and why he is so often hesitant in applying for a court order when it appears to the well-intentioned layman that "the obvious thing to do is to get the old body into a home." There are few of such cases in which everyone agrees that the M.O.H. has done right. If the person is **not** compulsorily removed and dies, as he or she would almost certainly have wished to die, at home, there are at once questions as to why the M.O.H. didn't apply for an order. If he **does** apply for an order and the person dies shortly after removal (**vide infra**), he has to face the suggestion that he would have done better to have done nothing.

CASES UNDER SECTIONS 47 AND 51, IN THE C.D. DURING 1959.

(It should be appreciated that these cases represent only a fraction of the total number of cases brought to my attention as possibly needing court action).

Application was made to the courts on 5 occasions, in respect of 6 persons, an old married couple being involved in one case. The court refused to grant an order in one case, in spite of strong representations by the local medical practitioner, the health visitor and myself. In this case while evidence was required from me on oath, the son of the person concerned refused to take the oath and was allowed to give evidence unsworn. This evidence as I am in a position to know, was a tissue of lies from start to finish, but was apparently accepted by the magistrates.

In the remaining 4 cases where orders were granted, 4 out of the 5 persons concerned have died. I can only hope that their last days and their passing were eased by the action which the law required me to take.

THE YEAR AS A WHOLE

C.D. Compared with 1958.

Improved	Deteriorated
Population	Deaths and Death Rate
Live Births and Birth Rate	Infant Deaths and Death Rate
Maternal Deaths and Death Rate (Nil)	(Both Legitimate and Illegitimate)
Tuberculosis Death Rate	Neonatal Deaths and Death Rate
	(Both Legitimate and Illegitimate)
	Tuberculosis. Number of new cases notified.

C.D. compared with E.W. 1959

C.D. better than E.W.	E.W. better than C.D.	E.W. rate not available.
Live Birth Rate		
Still Birth Rate		
Death rate		
Maternal Mortality (Nil)		
Infant Mortality Rate		No separate legitimate and illegitimate rates available.
	NIL	
		Neonatal Mortality (No rates available)
Incidence rates for Tuberculosis both Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary.		T.B. Death rates.

STAFF CHANGES

During the year, Mr. Carline replaced Mr. Connolly as P.H.I. and Surveyor for the Bicester U.D.

I would wish to express my grateful thanks to all my colleagues who, as always, have given me every assistance.

Your faithfully,

HECTOR MACKENZIE-WINTLE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Municipal Borough of Henley-on-Thames.

(R.G.'s Mid-year 1959 Home Population Estimate: 8,470).

Public Health Inspector:

M. A. STANDISH, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Council Offices, Market Place, Henley-on-Thames. Tel.: 987/8.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS :

131 (54 M and 77 F, of which 3 and 2 respectively were illegitimate).

LIVE BIRTH RATE :

Per 1,000 Home population (corrected) 16.4 (E.W. Provisional 16.5).

STILL BIRTHS :

2 (1 M. and 1 F. both legitimate).

STILL BIRTH RATE :

Per 1,000 live and still births, 15.0 (E.W. Provisional, 20.7).

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES :

130 (69 M. and 61 F.)

DEATH RATE :

Per 1,000 Home Population (Corrected) 11.4 (E.W. 11.6).

PRINCIPAL INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH:

	M.	F.	T.
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ...	14	15	29
Coronary disease and angina ...	7	10	17
Cancer of the lung ...	4	1	5
Bronchitis ...	4	1	5

Diseases of the heart (71), Cancer (21) and Diseases of the chest (8) accounted for 76.9% of all deaths.

MATERNAL DEATHS :

Nil.

NEONATAL DEATHS (Under 4 weeks) :

2 (1 M. and 1 F. both legitimate).

(Under 1 week):

2 (1 M. and 1 F. both legitimate).

Giving a neonatal mortality rate and an early neonatal mortality rate of 15.3 per 1,000 live births.

INFANT MORTALITY (under 1 year) :

4 (3 M. and 1 F. all legitimate).

INFANT MORTALITY RATE :

30.6 per 1,000 live births (E.W. Provisional 22.0).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY :

There has been no change in the water supply and bacteriological samples have continued to demonstrate the purity of the water.

All the 2,785 occupied dwellings in the Borough (2,721 houses and 64 caravans) have a piped main water supply—2,711 direct into the dwelling and 74 to a standpipe or shared standpipe.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL :

Chemical Closet	...	66.
Septic Tanks	...	80.
Main Sewer	...	2,639.

To meet the increasing flow of sewage, works are in hand to provide additional filters and humus tank.

HOUSING :

During 1959, the Council completed six 2 bedroomed and two three bedroomed houses, and sixteen 1 bedroomed flats on Watermans Estate, and a further ten 2 bedroomed houses and eight 1 bedroomed flats were under construction.

69 houses were completed by private enterprise and another 70 were under construction. Judging from plans already approved and plans proposed in outline by private enterprise, it appears that another 800–900 dwellings will be completed during the next few years.

HOUSING NEEDS OF THE BOROUGH :

It is estimated that 40 houses will still be required for general housing needs excluding houses required for persons displaced from houses, the subject of Statutory action under the Housing Act, 1957.

CARAVANS :

On two privately owned sites there are 53 and 3 caravans respectively occupied as dwellings. The Council have issued 8 individual licences for caravans renewable subject to conditions being satisfactory.

Swiss Farm Caravan Site is the subject of Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act, 1936 for insanitary conditions.

SLUM CLEARANCE :

101–105 Greys Road (No. 3 Area) and 107–113, Greys Road (No. 6 Area) have now been demolished. A survey on housing has been commenced for future action.

RENT ACT, 1957—CERTIFICATE OF DISREPAIR :

Little use is made of this Act and only 2 applications for Certificates were made. One certificate was issued and 1 owner's undertaking accepted. Two certificates were cancelled during the year.

FOOD INSPECTION

MEAT :

The only slaughterhouse in use closed down in July. The other slaughterhouse is licensed, but not in use. 2 calves, 9 sheep

and 2 pigs only were inspected and no condemnations made.

FOOD CONDEMNED :

Beast hindquarter	...	63 lbs.	Lard	...	...	224 lbs.
Pork leg	...	...	18 lbs.	Canned Meats	...	218 lbs.
Pigs' livers	...	...	56 lbs.	Canned Fruits	...	24 lbs.
Fish	...	...	4 stone	Miscellaneous	...	11 lbs.

ICE CREAM :

43 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream.

				Unsatis- factory
No. of samples of ice cream taken during year	2	—		
No. of samples of ice lollies	...	...	9	3

The three unsatisfactory samples of ice lollies contained presumptive coli and the manufacturers were written to. No bacteriological standards are laid down for ice lollies and so it is difficult to enforce any action.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS :

No. of Registered Distributors with dairy premises within the Borough	...	...	...	...	6
No. of dealers' licences granted for T.T. milk	...	...			5
No. of dealers' licences granted for Pasteurised Milk					5
No. of dealers' licences granted for Sterilised Milk	...				1

20 samples of milk were taken during the year and all were found to be satisfactory.

FOOD PREMISES AND FOOD HYGIENE :

A circular and summary of the Food Hygiene Regulations was sent to every food premises in the Borough. Inspections are made when time permits.

FOOD POISONING :

No case of Food Poisoning was notified during the year, but see page 7.

	No. in Henley	No. of Visits	No. of Defects & Contra- ventions Dis- covered	Notices Issued.	Defects and Con- traven- tions remedied.
Butchers
Bakehouses
Confectionery Premises
Grocers
Fish Shops
Greengrocers
Hotels, Cafes, etc.
Mixed General Shops
Licenced Premises and Clubs
Sweet Manufacturer
Dairies
TOTAL	141	129	67	12	67

Mention must be made of the serious case of unsound meat being sold from a mobile van retailing under the name of "Hygienic Butchers." Legal proceedings were threatened and resulted in the trade lettering on the van being altered to "Animal Products Limited," and a notice displayed on the counter that all meat was for animals only.

It seems remarkable that no legislation exists which would require sterilization of the meat before sale to the public.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SEC. 51 (See page 13).

One old lady was removed to "a suitable place" where she has since died.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE :

Diseases notified during the year, other than Tuberculosis:

	M	F	T
Measles	123	142	265
Dysentery (Sonné)	—	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases	M 5, 3 F (4 M, 2 F pulmonary) (1 M, 1 F non-pulmonary)	T 8
Transfers in:	2 M, 3 F (all pulmonary)	T 5
Transfers out and recovered:	2 F (both pulmonary)	T 2
Died:	2 M (both pulmonary)	T 2

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES :

	No. on Register	Inspections Made
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 apply	9	8
(2) Factories in which Section 7 applies	46	12
(3) Other premises	23	23
Totals ...	78	43

Two written notices served and complied with.

Two cases of Want of Cleanliness (s. 1) (one referred by H.M. Inspector) were remedied.

DISINFESTATION

RATS AND MICE :

Premises inspected	481
Rat infestation: Major	9
Minor	88
Mouse infestation: Major	3
Minor	18
No. of infested premises treated by L.A.	5

A sewer treatment, for the first time, was carried out in the town centre during the summer but takes were very low.

Advice on repairs and rat proofing measures is given to occupiers but treatment is done privately as the Council still do not undertake this service.

INSECTS :

The glorious summer encouraged insects to breed rapidly and 112 infestations were notified. Wasps nests in or close to buildings accounted for exactly 100. Some were treated as private works, but the majority of people were advised or instructed how to deal with them, and as far as I know all were successful except one person who sealed a large nest off inside a roof space which resulted in wasps finding their way out via the cavity walls and air vents.

One unusual infestation in an old people's home was found to be due to the house martin bug. Martins were nesting all round the eaves and the bugs had increased to such an enormous extent that they were invading the dormitories inside the building.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING THE YEAR 1959.

Summary of Inspections (including revisits).

(a) HOUSE INSPECTION :

Under the Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	156
Under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	126
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	77
Building Byelaws	...	...	...	764
Informal Notices served	...	...	...	85
Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	66
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	14
Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	9
Closing Orders Made	...	...	...	7
Demolition Orders (including Clearance Orders)	...	...	...	10
Undertakings given	...	...	...	2

(b) GENERAL SANITATION :

Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	212
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	43
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	14
Caravans	...	...	...	...	...	80
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	200
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	4
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	12

(c) FOOD PREMISES :

Bakhouses	...	...	...	...	...	12
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	28
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	3
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	14
Hotels, Cafe, Restaurants, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	28
Visits to food premises re: unsound food	...	...	...	...	...	42
Licenced premises	...	...	...	...	...	18
Visits to slaughterhouse re: meat inspection	...	...	...	...	...	7

Henley-on-Thames Municipal Borough							21
(d)	DISINFESTATION (Insects only) :						
	Wasps nests (100 notifications)	...	...	...	...	...	62
	Bed bugs	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Fleas	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Cluster fly	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Mosquitoes	...	...	...	...	...	1
	House Martin bug	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Woodworm	...	...	...	...	...	3
(e)	RENT ACT, 1957 :						
	Visits re: Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	...	...	...	6
(f)	SUMMARY OF DEFECTS REMEDIED AND NUISANCES						
	ABATED :						
	Dampness	...	8	General Disrepair items			16
	Water Closets			Dwellings improved by			
	repaired	...	5	Grants	...	...	16
	Drainage	...	17	Contravention in food			
	Roofs repaired	...	3	premises remedied	...		67

Bicester Urban District.

(R.G.'s Mid-year 1959 Home Population Estimate: 5,900).

Public Health Inspector:

G. CARLINE, Council House, The Garth, Bicester. Tel.: 90/91.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS :

121 (68 M and 53 F, of which 6 and 1 respectively were illegitimate).

LIVE BIRTH RATE :

Per 1,000 Home Population (Corrected) 18.0 (E.W. Provisional 16.5).

STILL BIRTHS :

2 (1 M and 1 F, both legitimate).

STILL BIRTH RATE :

Per 1,000 live and still births 16.3 (E.W. Provisional 20.7).

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES :

52 (28 M and 24 F).

DEATH RATE :

Per 1,000 Population (Corrected) 10.7 (E.W. 11.6).

PRINCIPAL INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH :

	M	F	T
Vascular lesions of the nervous system (including "stroke")	2	7	9
Coronary Disease	7	2	9
Diseases of the heart (26), Cancer (8) and Chest Diseases (6) accounted for 84% of all deaths.			

MATERNAL DEATHS :

Nil.

NEONATAL DEATHS :

(Under 4 weeks) : Nil.
(Under 1 week) : Nil.

INFANT MORTALITY :

One male child (legitimate) died in the first year of life.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE :

8.3 per 1,000 live births. (E.W. Provisional 22.0).

WATER SUPPLY.

The dry summer of 1959, which brought an increased water demand at the same time as a decreased availability, coupled with the continued steady growth of the town, gave rise to a degree of water shortage. The public spirit of the people of the town in conserving their water supply has enabled an actual reduction in the amount supplied to be shown and this will help considerably should this coming summer be as dry as the last.

The Council are aware of the problems and negotiations are in progress with the authorities concerned for the laying of a new 9in. main to bring more water from the River Cherwell at Heyford.

The advantage of de-sanding the borehole at the Council's headworks is also being considered in an effort to increase the supply. (Note: March 1960—this has now been decided upon).

Of the 1,555 inhabited houses all but six enjoy a piped supply and these are served by private wells.

No bacteriological samples have been taken during the past year, owing to pressure of work, but see page 28.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The works continue to function satisfactorily but a disturbing feature is the large quantity of storm water gaining access to the sewers at times of heavy rainfall.

The effluent samples have continued to be satisfactory.

Means of disposal:

Pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Main Sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1547

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The new Public Conveniences in Chapel Street and the Garth Park have proved a facility to the town, but continue from time to time to be damaged and abused by a minority of the users whose purpose in such actions it is difficult to assess.

A scheme has been approved by the Council for the conversion of the Sheep Street convenience to a gentlemen only, which should prove an improvement in the existing arrangements which have been the subject of criticism from time to time.

SWIMMING BATH.

The excellence of last year's summer brought a large increase in the usage of the pool and from a Public Health view point it is of some satisfaction that an effective chlorination system is in operation. (See page 9).

REFUSE COLLECTION.

This service continues to cope satisfactorily with its ever increasing burden.

HOUSING.

Council :

- (a) No Council houses were completed during 1959.
- (b) Under constructon 31/12/59
 - 18 3 bedroom houses.
 - 2 2 bedroom flats.
 - 2 1 bedroom flats.
 - 8 1 bedroom bungalows

Private :

- (c) 10 houses were built.
- (d) 18 houses under construction 31/12/59.

HOUSING LIST.

At 31/12/59 there were 304 live applications for Council houses. The Council have endeavoured, with some success, to persuade elderly persons living in larger Council houses to move to bungalows, in order to release their houses for families.

CARAVANS.

Six occupied caravans existed within the Urban District boundary. One has now (March 1960) been demolished owing to the Council having rehoused the tenant, and five are on licence renewable annually.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Seven applications were approved and the Council are hopeful that as many people as possible will take advantage of this grant scheme. This is a welcome reversal of the policy previously announced (see 1958 report).

INSPECTIONS MADE, NOTICES SERVED AND ORDERS MADE.

Inspections—Under Public Health Act, 1936	...	179
Under Housing Act, 1936	...	181
Notices (all informal) Under Public Health Act	...	87
Under Housing Act	...	52
Orders made	...	Nil

FOOD INSPECTION.

MEAT.

There are now three licensed slaughterhouses and one knacker's yard in the town.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle Ex- cluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total
Number killed (if known) ... (approximately)	264	—	49	2026	876	3215
Number inspected	264	—	49	2026	876	3215
All diseases excpt Tuberculosis and Crysticerchi: Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	19	—	—	31	48	98
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerchi ...	7.2	—	—	1.5	5.5	3.0
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	—	—	2	37	51
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.5	—	—	0.1	4.2	1.6
Cysticercolosis: Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalized and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

Meat (Offal)	...	...	...	...	...	76 lbs.
Canned Meat	...	...	...	...	...	23 tins.
Canned Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	24 tins.
Canned Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	61 tins.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS 1938 and 1944.

There has been no change since the 1957 report (q.v.) in the persons licensed under the various categories of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk Regulations, 1949).

ICE CREAM.

20 premises registered for the sale of ice cream.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955.

	No. in Bicester	No. of Visits made	No. of defects under Regula- tions discovered	No. of Notices Issued	No. of defects remedied or improved
Licensed Premises ...	21	7	—	—	—
Restaurants and Cafes	8	21	2	—	2
Food-shops, Gro- cers & Green- grocers	20	24	10	—	10
Bakeries	3	4	1	—	—
Dairies	4	4	—	—	—
School canteens and kitchens	3	1	—	—	—
Factory Canteens	1	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	60	62	13	Nil	12

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR
OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

					M	F	T
Measles	...	...	...	...	33	29	62
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	—	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases: 2 M, 3 F (all pulmonary, except 1 M).
Transfers in: 1 M, 1 F (both pulmonary).
Transfers out and recovered: 4 M, 5 F (all pulmonary).
Died: Nil.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937-1948.

(a) INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

	Number in Register	Inspec tions Made	Written Notices Served	Occupiers Prose- cuted
1. Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 apply	8	7	—	—
2. Factories in which Sec- tion 7 applies	24	19	—	—
3. Other premises	—	—	—	—
Totals	32	26	—	—

(b) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

	Number Found	Number Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—
Insufficient sanitary conveniences	1	1	—
Totals	4	4	—

RODENT CONTROL.

(Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949).

A full return is sent direct to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The following is an extract from it:—

	L.A.	D.	B.	T.
Properties in the town ...	24	1,555	325	1,904
Properties inspected ...	8	14	1	23
Inspections made ...	12	31	37	80
Properties infested ...	2	19	7	28
Properties treated ...	2	13	1	16
Total treatments	2	13	1	16

D: Dwelling Houses including Council Houses.

B: Business Premises.

These figures do not present the full picture, as many private owners and business owners carry out treatments privately.

SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING 1959.

Number of different premises visited (including Council Houses)	1,440
Number of inspections made	1,600
Number of complaints received (including Council Houses)	1,250
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	1,320
Number of notices served (statutory)	Nil.
Number of new houses connected to main	10

Note:

It will be noticed that, comparing the present figures with the 1958 figures, almost twice as many premises were visited and inspections made. The number of complaints has risen fourfold and the number of nuisances over five times.

The work is therefore sharply on the increase and as a result of this it has not been possible to keep records from which a breakdown as shown on p. 20 of the 1958 report, could be given for 1959.

Arrangements are already in hand for a renewal of samples to be taken regularly from the town's main water supply.

(H.M-W.)

Thame Urban District.

(R.G.'s Mid-year 1959 Home Population Estimate: 3,750).

Public Health Inspector:
G. C. SMITH, M.R.S.H., M.S.P.H.I.,
Town Hall, Thame. Tel.: 111.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS:

50 (25 M. and 25 F., of which 1 M. and 1 F. were illegitimate).

LIVE BIRTH RATE:

Per 1,000 Home Population (Corrected) 13.6 (EW. Provisional 16.5).

STILL BIRTHS:

1 F.

STILL BIRTH RATE:

Per 1,000 live and still births 19.6 (E.W. provisional 20.7).

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES:

50 (25 M. and 25 F.)

DEATH RATE:

Per 1,000 Home Population (Corrected) 12.4 (E.W. 11.6).

PRINCIPAL INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH:

	M.	F.	T.
Coronary disease	4	4	8
Vascular lesions of the nervous system, including "stroke"	3	4	7
Diseases of the heart (21), cancer (10) and chest diseases (7) accounted for 76% of all deaths.			

MATERNAL DEATHS:

Nil.

NEONATAL DEATHS:

There were no deaths under 1 week or under four weeks, and consequently no early neonatal or neonatal death rates.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE:

No deaths under 1 year and consequently no infant mortality rate.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY.

This is as described in 1958. The average daily consumption has, however, risen to approximately 156,000 gallons which represents an average daily consumption of 42 gallons a day per head for industrial and domestic purposes.

10 bacteriological samples were taken, all of which proved satisfactory.

Of the 1,321 occupied dwellings (1,312 houses and 9 caravans) 1,312 have piped water supply (1,309 direct into the house and 3 to a standpipe or common supply), and 9 are dependent upon wells, the water from which is pumped into the house in 3 cases.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Chemical closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
To cesspool or septic tank	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
To main sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,263

SLUDGE TREATMENT.

The concentration of primary sludge has been increasing steadily and is influenced by the trade sewage from the Market, Laundry and Slaughterhouse.

Although the summer of 1959 was exceptionally dry and there was a fairly high temperature for four months, the sludge on the drying beds did not dry out sufficiently to allow of it being moved. In previous summers it has always been possible to dry and burn four beds of sludge each month.

With the certainty that the sewage will at least remain at its present concentration and volume and the likelihood that both will materially increase, the problem of sludge treatment has become acute.

If the present system is to be continued the area of drying beds will need to be very considerably increased and maintenance will be costly, an acre of drying beds requiring 2 men full time. In addition, a large area of septic sludge could become a public health danger from the possible dispersion of fly and vermin borne disease and a nuisance from the dissemination of offensive odours.

Chemical treatment of the sludge has been recommended in the present scheme submitted to the Ministry. Annual estimated running costs of this form of treatment are £1,335.

HOUSING.

No houses were constructed by the Council during the year.

23 houses were completed by private enterprise during the year.

HOUSING LIST.

There were 63 applications outstanding at 31/12/59.

CARAVANS.

9 caravans were licensed during the year.

INSPECTIONS MADE, NOTICES SERVED AND ORDERS MADE.

Inspections—

Undr Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	131
Under Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	17

Notices served (Informal)—

Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	...	11
Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	5
Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES ACCORDING TO TYPE OF BUSINESS.

Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16, FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Dairies registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS.

41.

CONDEMNED MEAT.

Disposed of by incineration, and to approved contractors.

ICE CREAM TREATMENT, ETC. REG. 1947-1952.

No samples have been taken during the year. There are no manufacturers in the district.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

73 visits have been made to shops and market stalls during the year and, where applicable, suggestions have been made as to improvements in premises and food handling, to conform to the Food Hygiene Regulations. No prosecutions were made.

FOOD POISONING.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diseases notified during the year other than Tuberculosis.

					M.	F.	T.
Measles	...	...	...	...	11	7	18
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	—	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases: 2 M. (both pulmonary).

Transfers in: 2 F. (both pulmonary).

Transfers out and recovered: 4 M. 3 F. (all pulmonary except 1 M.)

Died: Nil.

FOOD INSPECTION.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Totals
Number killed (if known) ...	2141	144	198	8974	5778	17235
Number inspected	2141	144	198	8974	5778	17235
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	3	-	71	25	99
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	73	-	11	7	15	106
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	3.40	2.07	5.55	0.87	0.65	1.19
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	17	-	-	-	17
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	29	-	-	-	34	63
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	1.35	11.8	-	-	0.58	0.46
Cysticercosis:						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalized and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACT.

(a) INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

	Number in Register	Inspec- tions Made	Written Notices Served	Occupiers Prose- cuted
1. Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 apply	38	24	4	—
2. Factories in which Sec- tion 7 applies	6	6	—	—
3. Other premises	2	2	—	—
Totals	46	32	4	—

No defects were found.

RODENT CONTROL.

The following is an extract from the full return forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, for the 12 month period ended March 31st, 1960.

	Houses (including Council houses).	Other Premises.	Total
Number of inspections carried out, including re-inspections	34	15	49
Number of properties found to be infested	21	4	25
Number of properties treated	21	4	25
Number of treatments including re-treatments	31	17	48

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S
WORKING DURING 1959.

Number of Premises visited	237
Number of Inspections made	461
Number of complaints received	82
Number of defects and nuisances detected	61
Number of notices served (informal)	145
Number of notices served (statutory)	2
Number of visits to slaughterhouses	523
Dairies inspected; visits	9
Unclean houses; visits	1
Overcrowded houses; visits	—
Polluted ditches	4
Premises disinfected	4
Number of water samples taken (bacteriological)	12
Number of houses connected to water mains	23
Building inspections	131

Bullington Urban District.

(R.G.'s Mid-year 1959 Home Population Estimate: 40,660).

Senior Public Health Inspector: D. S. RODERICK.

Deputy Senior Public Health Inspector: F. A. FAWCETT, D.P.A. (Oxon).

Additional Public Health Inspector: G. F. TASKER.

Council Offices, 76, Banbury Road, Oxford. Tel.: 59227.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS:

796 (412 M. and 384 F., of which 14 and 23 respectively were illegitimate).

LIVE BIRTH RATE:

Per 1,000 Home Population (Corrected) 19.4 (E.W. Provisional 16.5).

STILL BIRTHS:

12 (4 M. and 8 F.; all legitimate).

STILL BIRTH RATE:

Per 1,000 total (live and still) births 14.9. (E.W. Provisional 20.7).

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES:

383 (195 M. and 188 F.)

DEATH RATE:

Per 1,000 Home Population (Corrected) 10.2 (E.W. 11.6).

PRINCIPAL INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH:

	M.	F.	T.
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	20	33	53
Coronary disease and angina	35	17	52
Pneumonia	18	16	34
Cancer of the lung	13	2	15

Diseases of the heart (166), cancer (75), and chest diseases (46) accounted for 74.9% of all deaths.

MATERNAL DEATHS:

Nil.

EARLY NEONATAL DEATHS (in the 1st week):

15 (9 M. and 6 F., 2 F. being illegitimate).

Rates:

Total, per 1,000 live births, 18.8.

Legitimate, per 1,000 legitimate live births, 17.1.

Illegitimate, per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 54.0.

(No E.W. figures available for any of the above).

NEONATAL DEATHS (in the first 4 weeks):

17 (11 M. 6 F., 2 F. being illegitimate).

Rates:

Total, per 1,000 live births, 21.4.

Legitimate, per 1,000 live births, 19.8.

Illegitimate, per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 54.0.

(No E.W. figures available for any of the above).

INFANT MORTALITY (Under 1 year):

25 (17 M. and 8 F., of which 2 F. were illegitimate).

Rates:

Total, per 1,000 live births, 31.4 (E.W. provisional 22.0).

Legitimate, per 1,000 legitimate live births, 30.3.

Illegitimate, per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 54.0.

(No E.W. figures available for the above two categories).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY.

Stage I of No. 1 Water Scheme to serve the Central and Eastern Parishes is complete.

During the year, mains were laid and tested from Tetsworth to Milton Common, Stadhampton to Chislehampton, Sydenham to Emmington, and Tiddington to Waterstock. The reservoirs and pumping stations at Lewknor and Watlington, and the Milton Common Water Tower were completed, and are now in use. A private supply of Magdalen College, Oxford, at Emmington, Chinnor, has been taken over; the system of pipes has been incorporated in Stage 1 of the Water Scheme, but the supply itself has been abandoned. A branch main has been laid to serve seven properties in the Post Office Yard, Tiddington, and mains extension were laid in Keens Lane and to the Golden Hills and Grafton Orchard Estates, Chinnor.

Stage II of the Water Scheme, to serve the Parishes of Warborough, Dorchester-on-Thames, Marsh Baldon, Toot Baldon, Clifton Hampden, Culham and Nuneham Courtenay, has been submitted for Ministerial approval. Owing to the withdrawal of rights to obtain water from a private supply at Culham, the Ministry has allowed mains-laying to proceed at Culham and this work has been completed.

The Council have agreed to take over the private mains supply of Col. Morrell at Culham, subject to certain conditions, but acceptance of these conditions by the owner has not yet been forthcoming.

An outline scheme for the supply of water to a proposed Scientific Research Establishment at Royal Naval Air Station at Culham for the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, by abstraction of water from the River Thames, is under consideration. An alternative scheme for abstraction of water from Amey's Gravel Pits at Dorchester-on-Thames is being investigated, but it seems unlikely, from geological research, that this scheme is a practicable one, unless exhaustive tests prove the contrary.

Oxford Corporation have laid a short length of main in Wheatley Road, Garsington, to alleviate shortage of water and lack of pressure in certain properties there.

Mains extensions to serve Kingston Stert and Chalford were

abandoned owing to excessive costs. An extension to serve Draycott, Tiddington, was approved subject to the cost being borne by the residents.

The following additional houses were connected to the mains during the years:—

* Aston Rowant ...	3	† Forest Hill with		* Stadhampton ...	24
† Beckley & Stowood	6	Shotover	3	* Stoke Talmage ...	6
Benson	60	† Garsington ...	7	* Sydenham	2
* Berrick Salome ...	4	* Great Haseley ...	26	* Tetsworth	29
* Brightwell		* Great Milton ...	11	* Tiddington with	
Baldwin	1	† Holton	7	Albury	9
* Chalgrove	10	† Horspath	34	* Towersey	3
* Chinnor	36	* Lewknor	36	* Warborough ...	16
* Cuxham with		* Little Milton ...	2	* Watlington ...	21
Easington	2	† Littlemore	15	* Wheatfield	8
* Dorchester-on-		† Old Marston ...	35	† Wheatley	52
Thames	75	* Pyrton	2	† Woodeaton ...	1
* Drayton St.		† Sandford-on-			—
Leonard	1	Thames	2	Total ...	554
Ewelme	1	* Shirburn	4		—

This includes 225 old properties.
Suppliers :—
* Bullington R.D.C.
† Oxford Corporation.
Remainder are supplied by the South Oxfordshire Water Co.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER SUPPLIES.

The following are the samples taken from non-piped sources with the number of unsatisfactory samples in brackets.

Adwell	3	(2)	Lewknor	1	(1)
Aston Rowant ...	10	(7)	Marsh Baldon ...	12	(7)
Berrick Salome ...	1	(1)	Old Marston ...	1	(1)
Brightwell Baldwin	1	(1)	Nuneham Courtenay	6	(6)
Chalgrove	3	(3)	Pyrton	1	(1)
Chinnor	1	(1)	Stanton St. John	1	(0)
Dorchester	1	(1)	Tetsworth	3	(2)
Forest Hill	2	(2)	Tiddington	2	(2)
Garsington	1	(1)	Toot Baldon	7	(5)
Great Haseley ...	1	(1)	Towersey	1	(1)
Great Milton	7	(7)	Warborough	3	(2)
Holton	3	(3)	Watlington	1	(1)

81% of the foregoing samples were contaminated (58% grossly so). It should be borne in mind, however, that many of these samples were taken to demonstrate the unsatisfactory state of the water supply concerned, and were not random samples.

The following are samples taken from main piped water supplies :—

Beckley	...	...	...	2	(1)	Stadhampton	...	...	3	(2)
Chinnor	...	...	...	16	(14)	Stanton St. John	...	...	2	(1)
Clifton Hampden	...	...	...	4	(2)	Sydenham	...	...	3	(1)
Culham	...	...	...	19	(18)	Tetsworth	...	...	1	(0)
Cuxham	...	...	...	1	(1)	Tiddington	...	...	5	(2)
Elsfield	...	...	...	2	(0)	Towersey	...	...	2	(2)
Forest Hill	...	...	...	2	(0)	Warborough	...	...	2	(1)
Great Haseley	...	...	...	2	(1)	Waterperry	...	...	2	(2)
Great Milton	...	...	...	2	(1)	Waterstock	...	...	2	(2)
Holton	...	...	...	2	(0)	Watlington	...	...	3	(1)
Horspath	...	...	...	2	(0)	Wheatley	...	...	6	(3)
Lewknor	...	...	...	4	(1)	Woodeaton	...	...	1	(0)
Risinghurst and Sandhills				3	(2)					

This gives 62% of samples potentially dangerous to health. Contamination in the public mains supply at Beckley, Risinghurst and Sandhills, Stanton St. John, Tiddington, Waterperry and Wheatley has now been removed by the suppliers, Oxford Corporation.

Sampling from the new mains supply to Culham is continuing, and from mains extensions at Chinnor.

Samples taken at Clifton Hampden from the link main to Culham were subsequently proved fit; also, from mains extensions at Warborough and Tiddington.

The remaining samples relate to the testing of water from boreholes, reservoirs, a water tower and new mains contained in the Scheme to serve the Central and Eastern Parishes in the Rural District.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

266 new connections were made during the year; 41 of these were to old properties.

The Littlemore Diversion Sewer—for the relief of the surcharged sewer in Heyford Hill Lane, Littlemore—has been laid, tested, and connected to the Cowley Road sewer. The provision of a new Sewage Pumping Station by Oxford City Council means that the whole of the sewerage system of Minchery Farm and College Farm Estates, Littlemore, is diverted to flow into the new pumping station, and that the Spring Lane sewer, laid in 1958, can be brought into use.

A small relief sewer has been laid direct to the pumping station to overcome the surcharging of sewers at Oxford Road, Old Marston.

The Council have approved an extension of the Village Sewerage System along Watery Lane, Clifton Hampden, by agents for the Clifton Hampden Estate, and this extension is being declared a public sewer.

On purely public health grounds, it has been agreed that sewerage schemes should be provided at Dorchester-on-Thames, Tetsworth, Garsington, Warborough, and Towersey, in that priority. Schemes are now in preparation for the first three of these five villages.

A scheme has been submitted for Ministerial approval for extension of the Wheatley Sewerage System, since the system is already overloaded and the needs of old property and new housing estates at Shotover Old Road should be met. A scheme is also being prepared for the extension of the Sewage Disposal System and the provision of a relief outfall sewer for the Parish.

Investigations are also proceeding into the inadequacy of the existing Watlington Sewerage System; the needs of property in Bayswater Road, Headington (17 houses, one farm and one crematorium), and of Great Haseley Village.

HOUSING.

During 1959, 28 3-bedroomed Council houses and 31 houses for sale were erected at Berinsfield, Dorchester-on-Thames.

218 private enterprise houses were built as follows: Old Marston (40), Wheatley (40), Chinnor (29), Benson (25), Horspath (25), Tiddington (9), Dorchester-on-Thames (8), Risinghurst and Sandhills (5), Great Milton, Chalgrove, Littlemore, Warborough (4 each), Beckley (3), Garsington, Clifton Hampden, Sandford-on-Thames, Watlington, Holton (2 each), and Ewelme, Stadhampton, Woodeaton, Great Haseley, Toot Baldon, Stanton St. John, Aston Rowant, Tetsworth (1 each).

The Oxford City Council have erected 3 maisonettes at Littlemore, and 4 houses at Risinghurst and Sandhills to satisfy the needs of applicants on their own housing list.

SUB-STANDARD HOUSING.

During the year, 21 huts at Dorchester-on-Thames were abandoned. The following remain occupied: 8 at Dorchester-on-Thames, and 79 at the Slade Park, Headington (Horspath Parish), the latter being administered by Oxford City Council.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

At 31st December, 1959, there were 505 caravans on 140 licensed sites in the Rural District. There were also 215 caravans on 8 unlicensed sites, 182 of these on 5 sites at Old Marston and 19 on Crown Property, R.A.F. Benson.

PROPOSED COUNCIL CARAVAN SITE, MILL LANE, OLD MARSTON.

Ministerial approval was given in January, 1959 to the Bullington R.D.C. (Marston Caravan Site) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1958, for the use of approximately 4½ acres of land at Mill Lane, Old Marston, formerly used as a private rubbish dump, and owned by Mr. and Mrs. W. Dennis, as a site for approximately 60-64 caravans.

The Council entered into possession of the land in February, 1959, and levelling of the site commenced in April and was completed in August when planning approval for the proposed development was given by the Oxfordshire County Council.

Development of the site commenced in November, 1959, and should be completed within 3 to 6 months.

At the end of 1959 there were 912 applications for council houses outstanding. It is estimated that approximately 500 houses are required to replace unfit houses, to abate overcrowding, to rehouse families living in huts, and to meet the increased demand for housing a growing population.

In 1959, 107 applications were received, of which 94 were approved, 9 rejected, and 4 still under consideration at 31st December, 1959. Grants approved during the year totalled £22,767 and £16,771 had been paid in Grants by the end of the year for works satisfactorily completed.

Great Milton	1
Woodeaton	3

Eleven houses were re-conditioned after formal action had been taken under the Housing Acts; two at Chalgrove, four at Dorchester-on-Thames, two at Sandford-on-Thames, one at Watlington and two at Wheatley.

In response to informal action taken during this period under the Public Health and Housing Acts, 417 houses were either rendered fit or improved.

	M.	F.	T.
Measles	311	290	601
Scarlet Fever	12	16	28
Whooping Cough	9	10	19
Pneumonia	4	5	9
Sonné Dysentery	4	3	7
Food Poisoning	4	2	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	2	2
Malaria (ex overseas)	1	—	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	345	328	673

Died: 1 M. (pulmonary), 1 F. (non-pulmonary).

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937-1959.

(a) INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

	Number on Register	Inspec- tions Made	Written Notices Served	Occupiers Prose- cuted
1. Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 apply	16	20	3	Nil
2. Factories in which Sec- tion 7 applies	79	91	1	Nil
3. Other premises	33	38	Nil	Nil
Totals	128	149	4	Nil

(b) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Defect	Number Found	Number Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ...	3	2	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) insufficient	Nil	4	Nil	Nil
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	4	Nil	Nil
Others offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers) ...	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	5	10	Nil	Nil

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

SECTION 47.

3 persons (2 being a married couple) were, on magistrates' orders, removed from unsuitable conditions "to a suitable place" (See page 14). 2 of these persons, including the wife of the couple, died shortly after admission.

SECTION 50.

Arrangements were made under this section of the Act for the burial of 4 persons who died at Milton Common, Postcombe, Old Marston, and Risinghurst and Sandhills.

SECTION 51.

One man and one woman were removed under Section 51 (see page 14). Both died after admission to hospital, one almost immediately.

SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' WORK DURING 1959.

(Including Food Inspection, Meat Inspection and the
administration of the Food Hygiene Regulations).

Number of inspections made for all purposes	...	...	3557
Number of additional visits made for miscellaneous purposes			57
Number of complaints received	...	...	*691
Number of notices served (informal)	...	...	197
Number of notices served (statutory)	...	...	31
Number of prosecutions	...	...	1

*This figure includes 268 complaints of rat infested premises and 128 complaints of wasps' nests.

NATURE OF WORKS CARRIED OUT AS A RESULT OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL ACTION.

Number of houses where repairs carried out or defects remedied, including houses where drainage improved, including the provision of sinks	...	...	177
Number of houses where major schemes of improvement were carried out, including complete modernisation of drainage connected to a public sewer	...	...	36
Number of other houses connected to sewer	...	...	5
Number of houses where major schemes of improvement were carried out, including complete modernisation of septic tank drainage	...	...	88
Number of houses where privies converted to water carriage system	...	...	69
Number of houses connected to water mains as a result of formal action	...	...	9
Number of houses connected to water mains as a result of informal action	...	...	216
Number of water samples taken for bacteriological examination (for details see pp. 36 & 37)	...	...	166

OTHER DEFECTS AND NUISANCES ABATED.

Choked drains and overflowing cesspools cleansed	...	18
Accumulations or deposits removed	...	8
Foul ditches or streams cleansed	...	10
Keeping of animals; unsatisfactory premises dealt with	...	7
Verminous or dirty premises cleansed	...	10
Houses disinfected after cases of infectious disease	...	8

FOOD AND DRUGS.

NUMBER & TYPES OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA.

Grocers and provision merchants and general mixed food shops	...	115
Fruiterers and greengrocers	...	6
Butchers	...	20
Fish Shops	...	3
Dairies	...	10
Cafés and Restaurants	...	17

Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
School Canteen Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

NUMBER AND TYPES OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA
REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16, FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	100
Manufacture of Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	11
Manufacture of Sausages and Pickled Meat	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fish frying	...	...	...	...	...	3

MILK & DAIRIES.

Distributors of Milk	...	...	...	...	...	21
Registered Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	10

Dealers' Licences issued to distributors of milk trading from premises in the District, authorising the use of the special designations:

(a) Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	9
(b) Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	2
(c) Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	10

Dealers' Supplementary Licences issued to distributors of milk trading from premises outside the District, authorising the use of the special designations:—

(a) Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	8
(b) Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	2
(c) Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	8

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKERS' YARDS.

Licensed Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Licensed Knackers' Yards	...	...	...	...	...	2

MEAT INSPECTION.

During the year, there has again been no change in the arrangements for meat inspection in the district. There are now no licensed slaughterhouses in the district—the licence that was in force last year has been allowed to lapse. Meat inspection is confined to routine visits to butchers' shops and also of animals slaughtered as casualties. Any condemned meat is disposed of by incineration at the Council's tips; the quantity of meat involved being usually small.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Inspection of food is carried out during routine visits to shops and also when requested by shopkeepers to examine particular articles of food. Unfit food is disposed of by incineration at the Council's tips.

FOOD INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

Beef	...	...	...	...	...	276 lbs.
Liver	...	...	...	...	...	25 lbs.
Turkeys	...	...	...	...	...	36 lbs.
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	10 lbs.
Tinned Ham	...	...	...	...	...	16 lbs.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

During the year, the following visits to Food Premises in the district have been made:—

Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	196
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	156
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	14
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cafés	...	...	...	...	...	33
Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous food premises	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ice cream stores	...	...	...	...	...	14
Food vehicles	...	...	...	...	...	2

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS—
SAMPLING.

During the year, 18 consumer samples of milk were taken from various distributors in the district, viz.:—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	8
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	...	10

All the samples complied with the prescribed lists.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

The regular inspection of food premises has been carried out during the year and a steady improvement in hygienic standards has been maintained. Shop premises are in particular being much improved and the new shops and those that have been re-conditioned reach a very high standard. Work on licensed premises has been fairly well maintained during the year, and several premises have been brought up to a modern standard.

ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH DEFECTS
AT FOOD PREMISES.
LICENSED PREMISES.

Notices Served			Work Completed		
Defects	Premises			Premises	
Defective sanitary accommodation	...	5	Major schemes of improvement	...	3
Absence of or unsatisfactory washing facilities	3		New sanitary accommodation	...	4
Unsatisfactory water supply	1		External sanitary accommodation improved	...	2
Other defects or decorative disrepair	...	2	Connected to sewer	...	1
Absence of “wash-up”	...	1	“Wash-ups” provided	...	3
Defective ventilation	...	1	Mains water laid on	...	2
			Mechanical ventilation installed	...	1

				SHOPS.			
To lay on mains water	...	6		Major schemes of improve-			
Absence of or unsatisfac-				ment	...	...	2
tory washing facilities	...	5		Hot water laid on for wash-			
Other defects	...	1		ing facilities	...	...	3
				Washing facilities provided			1
				Mains water laid on	...	4	

BAKEHOUSES.					
Defects or decorative dis-				Re-decoration carried out	2
repair	3	

CAFES AND RESTAURANTS.					
Defective sanitary accom-				Re-decoration carried out	1
modation	1	Washing facilities provided	1
Other defects or decorative					
disrepair	2		
Absence of washing facili-					
ties	1		
Storage of Refuse	1		

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

An analysis of the work carried out under this Act, during the year ended 31st March, 1960, shows that 2034 properties were inspected, 289 in response to complaints received and 1041 re-inspections were made.

985 of these properties were found to be infested by rats, and 25 by mice, all of which were treated, including 705 re-treatments. 202 "block" control schemes were carried out.

It was not found necessary to take any formal action.

Henley Rural District.

(R.G.'s Mid-year 1959 Home Population Estimate: 21,430).

Chief Public Health Inspector: H. G. T. BOLTON.

Additional Public Health Inspector: B. READ.

Easby House, Henley-on-Thames. Tel.: 672.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS:

382 (183 M. and 199 F., of which 7 M. and 7 F. were illegitimate).

LIVE BIRTH RATE:

Per 1,000 Home Population (Corrected) 18.0 (E.W. Provisional: 16.5).

STILL BIRTHS:

7 (6 M. and 1 F., all legitimate).

STILL BIRTH RATE:

Per 1,000 total (live and still) births 18.0. (E.W. Provisional: 20.7).

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES:

231 (134 M. and 97 F.)

DEATH RATE:

Per 1,000 Home Population (Corrected) 10.7. (E.W. 11.6).

PRINCIPAL INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH:

	M.	F.	T.
Coronary disease and angina	30	9	39
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	15	13	28
Pneumonia	6	12	18

Diseases of the heart (108), cancer (33) and chest diseases (31) accounted for 74.5% of all deaths.

MATERNAL DEATHS:

Nil.

EARLY NEONATAL DEATH (under 1 week):

1 F. (legitimate).

Rate 2.6 per 1,000 live births. No E.W. figure available.

NEONATAL DEATHS (under 4 weeks):

2 (1 M. and 1 F., both legitimate).

NEONATAL DEATH RATE:

Per 1,000 live births: 5.2 (E.W. figure not available).

INFANT MORTALITY (under 1 year):

5 (2 M. and 3 F., all legitimate).

INFANT MORTALITY RATE:

Per 1,000 live births: 13.1. (E.W. Provisional 22.0).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY.

The district over most of its area has continued to be supplied quite adequately by the South Oxfordshire Water Company and smaller areas by the Henley Water Company and Reading Corporation. Well over 90 per cent. of all properties have a piped mains supply.

The South Bucks and Oxfordshire Water Bill was rejected by the Select Committee. The Reading and Berkshire Water Bill, now awaiting final sanction by Parliament, will constitute a Thames Valley Water Board, which will include the Henley Rural District and Henley Borough, and the private companies will cease to exist.

SAMPLING.

8 samples were examined bacteriologically during the year, 2 from mains water supplies and 6 from wells. Both mains samples were highly satisfactory; of the wells samples 4 were satisfactory and 2 were grossly contaminated.

SEWERAGE WORKS.

At Goring 280 properties have been connected to the public sewers, leaving approximately 87 to be connected.

At Nettlebed, 102 properties have been connected to the public sewers, leaving approximately 59 to be connected.

At Whitchurch, the Council have accepted tenders for the sewerage of Whitchurch and work is proceeding.

HOUSING.

During 1959 the Council built 16 houses at Whitchurch.

115 private enterprise houses were completed (10 more than the previous year). These were distributed as follows:—

Bix	...	...	1	Mapledurham	...	...	22
Checkendon	...	...	1	Nettlebed	...	...	4
Crowmarsh	...	...	2	Rotherfield Peppard			7
Eye & Dunsden	...	...	6	Sonning Common	...	...	14
Goring	...	...	17	Stoke Row	...	...	1
Goring Heath	...	...	3	Shiplake	...	...	8
Highmoor	...	...	1	Whitchurch	...	...	4
Kidmore End	...	...	16	Woodcote	...	...	8
							<hr/>
							115
							<hr/>

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

The parishes of Rotherfield, Peppard and Harpsden were re-surveyed during 1959. Of the 143 pre-war houses in Rotherfield Peppard of under £20 R.V., 91 were placed in category 1 (satisfactory); 17 in category 2 (minor defects); 29 in category 3 (requiring repairs or improvements); and 6 in category 4 (unfit and beyond repair at reasonable expense).

In Harpsden where there were 84 pre-war houses under £20 R.V. the revised figures were category 1—71; category 2—2;

category 3—7 and category 4—4.

HOUSING DEMAND.

The number of applications for Council houses was 212 at the end of the year. This is a continuation of the fall in the demand which has dropped steadily from 453 in 1954. Of these 212 applicants 45 state that they are without separate homes and 21 live in caravans. In 1954 the corresponding numbers were 120 and 18. The growing tendency for couples with housing difficulties to resort to caravans instead of in-laws seems to be reflected in these figures.

SUB-STANDARD HOUSING.

HUTS.

Only four huts were occupied at the end of the year on the last of the Council's hutted camps at Whitechurch. The building of the permanent houses on the site of the camp was well advanced.

At Checkendon the National Assistance Board still had a number of Nissen huts in use as family dwellings for Polish ex-service men. The Council have agreed to accept ten of these families on the housing application list and it is hoped that this camp will be run down in 1960.

CARAVANS.

The Council has continued to resist to the utmost, within the weak legal powers available, the presence of unlicensed caravans in a field at Shiplake. At the end of the year the number had dropped to 11 from 37.

Apart from this the caravan situation remains substantially the same as described in the previous report (i.e. 220 for permanent occupation and 70 for holidays or occasional use).

HOUSING PURCHASE.

Under the Housing Act 1949 advances for purchase have been made in 45 cases.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Of the applications made for improvement grants under the Housing Acts, 54 were granted by the Council to a total of £10,500 (approx.)

FOOD INSPECTION.

There are now no licensed slaughterhouses in the district. Inspection of meat and meat products is carried out at the 7 butchers' shops during routine visits.

FOOD INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

Meat:

31 tins various meats	...	...	...	...	56 lbs.
Beef	...	...	...	...	10 lbs.

Other Food:

28 tins fruits	...	...	...	...	30 lbs.
13 tins vegetables	...	...	...	...	12 lbs.
2 Miscellaneous tins	...	...	...	...	3 lbs.
10 tins fish	...	...	...	...	5 lbs.

All this food was disposed of by burying at the Council's tips.

FOOD HYGIENE.

(a) NUMBER AND TYPE OF FOOD PREMISES:

General mixed food shops	...	...	...	...	68
Butchers	...	...	...	...	7
Chemists	...	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	6
Cafés, Restaurants, Canteens	...	...	...	...	21
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	76
School kitchens	...	...	...	...	16

(b) FOOD PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER S. 16, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955:

Storage and sale of ice cream	72
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ICE CREAM SAMPLES.

6 ice cream samples were taken, all of which proved Grade 1.

MILK AND DAIRIES,

1. Dealer's licences issued to distributors of milk trading from premises in the district authorising the use of the special designation:

(a) Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	4
(b) Sterilized	...	...	...	...	—
(c) Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	4

2. Supplementary dealers' licences issued to distributors of milk trading from premises outside the district, authorising the use of the special designation:

(a) Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	7
(b) Sterilized	...	...	...	...	3
(c) Tuberculin Tested	7

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933-54.

Licensed slaughtermen	4
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FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

During the year, 326 inspections have been made in connection with these regulations. The attention of proprietors or occupiers was drawn as follows:—

Food exposed to risk of contamination	...	...	4
Defective and unclean premises	...	...	2
Defective or unclean sanitary conveniences	...	...	2
First aid materials not provided	...	...	3
Washing facilities inadequate	...	...	6

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diseases notified during the year, other than Tuberculosis:

	M.	F.	T.
Measles	267	286	553
Pneumonia	14	11	25
Whooping Cough	10	7	17
Scarlet Fever	5	8	13
Food Poisoning	2	1	3
Erysipelas	—	2	2
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	—	1
Meningococcal Meningitis	1	—	1
Dysentery (Sonné)	—	1	1
	300	316	616

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases: 4 M., 5 F. (all pulmonary).
Transfers in: 9 M., 8 F. (all pulmonary except 1 F.).
Transfers out and recovered: 12 M., 10 F. (all pulmonary except 1 M., 1 F.).
Died: 1 M., 1 F. (both pulmonary).

FACTORIES ACT.

(a) INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

	Number in Register	Inspec- tions Made	Written Notices Served	Occupiers Prose- cuted
1. Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 apply	—	—	—	—
2. Factories in which Sec- tion 7 applies	32	34	2	—
3. Other premises	—	—	—	—
Totals	32	34	2	—

(b) NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	Number of Cases in which Prosecu- tions were Instituted
Sanitary Conven- iences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	1	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	1	1	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	1	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Totals ...	4	2	2	2	Nil

PEST CONTROL.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food gave up the contract for the destruction of rats and mice on agricultural properties on the 31st March. The Council undertook to provide a similar service. A number of contracts have been signed and regular visits have been made to the premises and land concerned without the necessity so far for any increase of staff. It has been found that infestations of rats in villages are sometimes a result of a general influx of rats from the fields so that the opportunity of being able to deal with the farms in this way is welcomed.

The year was notable in the pests field for the large number of wasps' nests which were reported to the Council. In almost every case the Council's rodent operator was able to destroy these and this free service was appreciated by the ratepayers concerned.

Other pests which came into prominence during the latter part of 1959's dry summer were the hibernating flies and the swarming flies. These flies are the cause of considerable nuisance and alarm to the householders owing to their habit of entering buildings in extremely large numbers and clustering in the roof space and on interior walls. They closely resemble the common house-fly but are not so filthy in their habits and therefore not such a menace to health.

SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS'
WORK DURING 1959.

Number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	64
Number of notices served (informal)	...	...	...	...	52
Number of notices served (statutory)	...	...	...	...	15
Number of prosecutions	...	...	...	...	1

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS MADE:

Re Housing—surveys and disrepair	...	...	...	1100
„ Public cleansing	...	...	...	480
„ Food hygiene	...	...	...	245
„ Caravans and moveable dwellings	...	...	...	306
„ Factories and work-shops	...	...	...	38
„ Dairies and milk-shops	...	...	...	24
„ Shops Acts	...	...	...	40
„ Water supplies	...	...	...	20
„ Infectious disease cases	...	...	...	10
„ Drainage and cesspools	...	...	...	380
„ Public Health nuisances	...	...	...	224
„ Ice cream premises	...	...	...	46
„ Re-visits to premises under notice	...	...	...	250
				<hr/> 3163 <hr/>

NUMBER OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES ABATED.

As to accumulation and deposits	...	...	...	4
As to Privies, W.C.s, Sink Wastes, etc.	...	...	...	18
As to Drains and Cesspools	...	...	...	21
As to Pigs and other animals	...	...	...	2
Number of premises disinfected	...	...	...	2
Number of premises disinfested	...	...	...	2
Number of conservancy closets replaced by W.C.s	...	...	...	54
Number of wells closed and main water provided	...	...	...	—
Water samples taken for analysis	...	...	...	8

HOUSING REPAIRS.

Remedying dampness	...	...	...	...	...	21
Roof repairs	...	...	...	...	...	17
Guttering	...	...	...	...	...	15
Floors	...	...	...	...	...	11

INFORMAL ACTION BY THE OWNERS.

No. of houses within Survey re-conditioned or improved	62
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ACTION ARISING UNDER HOUSING ACTS.

Section 9 Housing Act, 1957—

No. of notices served	4
No. of notices complied with	...	...	...	...	3
No. of notices outstanding	...	...	...	...	2

Section 16 Housing Act, 1957—

No. of Demolition Orders served	...	...	...	Nil.
No. of Demolition Orders outstanding	...	...	...	8

No. of Demolition Orders—

(a) Occupied premises	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Unoccupied premises	...	...	...	...	7

No. of undertakings accepted not to use for human habitation	...	...	...	...	2
No. of undertakings outstanding	...	...	...	...	24
No. of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	4
No. of houses made fit	...	...	...	...	6

Ploughley Rural District.

(R.G.'s Mid-year 1959 Home Population Estimate: 28,940).

Chief Public Health Inspector: B. P. GARROD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

G. A. HUDSON, M.A.P.H.I.

R. M. CLAYTON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Waverley House, Bicester. Tel.: Bicester 154.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS:

664 (325 M. and 339 F., of which 6 and 20 respectively were illegitimate).

LIVE BIRTH RATE:

Per 1,000 Home Population (Corrected) 23.4. (E.W. Provisional 16.5).

STILL BIRTHS:

5 (4 M. and 1 F., all legitimate).

STILL BIRTH RATE:

Per 1,000 total (live and still) births 7.5 (E.W. Provisional 20.7).

DEATHS:

209 (130 M. and 79 F.)

DEATH RATE:

Per 1,000 Home Population (Corrected) 10.3 (E.W. 11.6).

PRINCIPAL INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH:

	M.	F.	T.
Coronary Disease and Angina	25	13	38
Vascular lesions of the nervous system (including "Stroke")	17	6	23
Pneumonia	3	8	11
Diseases of the heart (82), cancer (44) and chest diseases (23) accounted for 71.3% of all deaths.			

MATERNAL DEATHS:

Nil.

EARLY NEONATAL DEATHS (under 1 week):

6 (5 M., 1 F., all legitimate). Rate per 1,000 live births, 9.0 (E.W. rate not available).

NEONATAL DEATHS (Deaths under 4 weeks):

6 (5 M., 1 F., all legitimate).

NEONATAL DEATH RATE:

Per 1,000 live births: 9.0 (E.W. rate not available).

INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under 1 year):

9 (7 M., 2 F., all legitimate).

INFANT MORTALITY RATE:

Per 1,000 live births: 13.6 (E.W. provisional 22.0).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year the water main was extended from Hardwick to Stoke Lyne and also from Ardley to Bucknell.

264 houses, excluding married quarters, were connected to a main water supply, during the year.

SAMPLES.

44 specimens of water were examined, 37 from mains and 7 from wells. 10.8% of the mains samples showed danger to health, and 71% of the wells supplies. It should be borne in mind, however, that while the mains samples were routine checks, the wells samples were largely concentrated on suspected supplies.

SEWERAGE.

New sewers were constructed in Bletchington and a sewerage scheme is in progress at Kirtlington. The second part of the Yarnton scheme and an extension of the Kidlington works are also still in progress.

NEW CONNECTIONS.

During the year, 203 new connections to new and old properties were made, as follows: Kidlington (129), Yarnton (24), Gosford & Water Eaton (21), Ambrosden (8), Bucknell (5), Lower Heyford, Fringford (3 each), Illethe, Stoke Lyne, Launton, Stratton Audley (2 each), Fritwell, Islip (1 each).

HOUSING.

During 1959 three 3-bedroomed houses, two 2-bedroomed houses and two bungalows were erected by the Council at Ambrosden.

During the year a total of 187 private enterprise houses were built as follows: Kidlington (120), Yarnton (23), Gosford & Water Eaton (21), Horton-cum-Studley (8), Hardwick-with-Tusmore (4), Launton (2), Begbroke, Blackthorn, Bucknell, Ardley, Finmere, Middleton Stoney, Piddington, Stoke Lyne, Stratton Audley (1 each).

SUB-STANDARD HOUSING.

The R.D. have no huts and no licensed caravan sites. No known unlicensed sites exist. 102 caravans on individual annual licence are scattered throughout the district. Proposals are still in hand for the establishment of a council-run site.

OVERCROWDING AND HOUSING DEMAND.

There is little overcrowding by the official standards but these are very low. At the end of 1959 there were 273 applications for Council houses, an increase of 15 on the 1958 figures.

HOUSING ACT, 1957.

SECTION 16:

Demolition orders served	...	...	...	...	3
Undertakings accepted not to use for human habitation					2
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	6

UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS
WERE REMEDIED, ALL BY THE OWNERS:

After informal action by L.A.	89
After formal action under Public Health Acts	8
After formal action under:	
Secs. 9 & 16 Housing Act, 1957	10
Sec. 24 Housing Act, 1957 (Demolition order revoked)	9

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

1. Under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, as amended by the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959:

Number of houses for which applications were received	47
Number approved by L.A.	46
Number of applications withdrawn before approval ...	1

2. Under the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959:

Number of applications received	6
Number of applications approved by L.A.	5
Number of applications not approved by L.A.	1

RENT ACT, 1957.

PART 1. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

No. of applications by tenants for certificates as to remedying of defects which landlord has under- taken to remedy	1
No. of decisions to issue certificates as to remedying of defects specified in a landlord's undertaking to remedy defects	1

FOOD INSPECTION.

There are six general slaughterhouses, a bacon factory and a knacker's yard in the district. To give full protection to the public a 100% inspection of all animals intended for human consumption is made.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lams.	Pigs.	Total
Number killed (if known) ...	427	5	62	3052	30036	33582
Number inspected	427	5	62	3052	30036	33582
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci: Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	2	8	85	95
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	50	1	—	29	3827	3907
Percentage of the number, inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci ...	11.7	20	3.2	1.2	13	11.9
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	1	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	1888	1888
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	6.3	5.6
Cysticercosis: Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	1	—	—	—	—	1
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Generalized and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

2 specimens of meat were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for confirmation of diagnosis.

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

Condemned meat is stained and processed for fertilisers, manures and animal feeding. Other condemned food is burnt and/or buried.

* PRECIS OF CONDEMNED FOOD LIST.

TOTAL WEIGHT OF FOOD CONDEMNED.

	Tons	cwt.	qtrs.	stones	lbs.
Meat	28	19	0	1	12 ³ / ₄
Tinned Foods			2	1	10
Other Foods		9	1	1	6
	29	9	1	1	0 ³ / ₄

* See note by M.O.H. (1958 report).

NUMBER AND TYPE OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA:

Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Off-licence Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fried Fish Shop	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Cafés	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bacon Factory	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ministry of Food Buffer Depot	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
							169

REGISTERED UNDER SEC. 16, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

- For sale of ice cream—74 (inspections made 75).
- Preparation and manufacture of sausages—5 (163).
- Curing bacon—1 (52).
- Preparation of fish by cooking—1 (5).

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949—REGISTRATIONS.

As distributors of milk	...	...	...	...	...	9
Premises not dairy farms in use as such	...	...	...	...	...	10

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949—LICENCES ISSUED.

Supplementary Licences, to use designation—						
“Pasteurised”	...	...	...	...	...	13
“Sterilised”	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dealers' Licences to use designation “Pasteurised”	...	...	...	...	...	10

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS 1949 LICENCES ISSUED.

Supplementary Licences, to use designation “Tuberculin Tested”						
Dealers' Licences, to use designation “Tuberculin Tested”	...	...	...	...	...	9

ICE CREAM.

68 samples were taken and submitted for laboratory examination. 51 (75%) were returned satisfactory. The test is not reliable and of little practical value.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955-6.

In addition to the routine work under the above Regulations, the Department had to deal with a large influx of people who attended the Royal Show which was held in this area during the year.

This is the largest Agricultural Show in the country and although it lasts four days, the catering firms are very busy several weeks before the opening and some after the closing. Contact was made with all the official caterers who supply and serve the general public, officials, stockmen, etc., several months

before the show, and agreement was reached as to the methods of storage, cooking, washing-up, etc.

The Licensed Premises were also inspected, particularly regarding the washing of glasses.

Generally, the equipment and handling of food and drink was satisfactory, but several minor contraventions which were observed were immediately remedied by the caterers. Other inspections were made of some of the larger stands, where facilities were available for meals, etc. to customers.

The additional work involved could not have been efficiently done but for the assistance given by some of the Public Health Inspectors of the City of Oxford and the thanks of the Council have been given to them and the Oxford Corporation.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

	M.	F.	T.
Measles	233	211	444
Scarlet Fever	35	22	57
Pneumonia	10	18	28
Whooping Cough	9	3	12
Sonné Dysentery	2	2	4
Food Poisoning	—	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	3	3
Erysipelas	1	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	—	1
	291	260	551

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases: 6 M., 4 F. (all pulmonary, except 1 M.)
Transfers in: 4 M., 5 F. (all pulmonary).
Transfers out and recovered:
12 M., 9 F. (8 M. and 8 F. pulmonary, 4 M. and 1 F. non-pulmonary).
Died: Nil.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937-1948.

(a) INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

	Number in Register	Inspec- tions Made	Written Notices Served	Occupiers Prose- cuted
1. Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 apply	3	6	—	—
2. Factories in which Sec- tion 7 applies	57	31	1	—
3. Other premises	—	—	—	—
Totals	60	37	1	—

(b) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

One—A defective sanitary convenience. It had not been possible to repair this by the end of the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 50.

It was necessary for the Council to arrange the burial of two persons who died in the area during the year.

RODENT CONTROL.

A full return, under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, will be made direct to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Food for the year ended 31st March, 1960, and the following are the figures for nine months ended 31st December, 1959:—

Properties inspected	...	...	...	...	582
Number of inspections, including re-inspections	...	...	...	...	1349
Properties infested with rats	...	...	...	...	364
Properties infested with mice	...	...	...	...	147
Treatments carried out	...	...	...	...	1157
It was found necessary to take formal action in the case of one dwellinghouse.					

In addition, 210 treatments were carried out against insect and other pests.

SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' WORK DURING 1959.

Number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	67
Number of Notices served (informal)	...	...	...	...	56
Number of Notices served (statutory):					
Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	—
Housing Act	...	...	...	...	—
Number of prosecutions	...	...	...	...	—
NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS	...	...	...	...	4937
Houses inspected:					
Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	356
Housing Act	...	...	...	...	210
Visits and re-visits to property under notice	...	...	...	...	1773
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	67
Public Cleansing	...	...	...	...	454
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	255
Infectious Disease Cases	...	...	...	...	34
Caravans	...	...	...	...	267
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	140
Food and Drugs Acts	...	...	...	...	15
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	10
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	163
Animal Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	631
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	3
Tinned Foods and other articles of food	...	...	...	...	180
Houses disinfested	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	46
Interviews with Owners, etc	...	...	...	...	202

NUMBER OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES ABATED ... 804

Dwelling Houses:

Repaired or made fit	...	...	...	...	75
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	36
Plastered walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	58
Floors repaired, ventilated, etc.	...	...	...	...	56
Windows repaired, made to open, etc.	...	...	...	...	44
Food stores provided, repaired, etc.	...	...	...	...	45
Stairs repaired	...	...	...	...	26
Skirting boards provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	28
Doors repaired, rehung or renewed	...	...	...	...	38
Firegrates repaired, reset or renewed	...	...	...	...	33
Chimneys or chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	28
New sinks provided and fixed	...	...	...	...	43
Sink wastes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	7
Water supply provided inside houses	...	...	...	...	24
Wash coppers repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	2
External walls pointed	...	...	...	...	42
External walls cemented or tarred	...	...	...	...	1
Eaves, gutters and rain water pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	27
Yards and passages paved and drained	...	...	...	...	16
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	25

DRAINS, WATER CLOSETS AND ASHES ACCOMMODATION.

Obstructed drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	5
Drains repaired or re-constructed	...	...	...	...	43
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	3
Closet structures repaired	5
Dustbins provided	91

OTHER NUISANCES.

Accumulations	1
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(One of the additional public health inspectors was away ill for over three months during the year. The total number of inspections dropped by only a sixth as compared with 1958 and the number of nuisances abated actually rose by just over 11%, a very creditable result.—H. M-W.).

W. H. Lee, Printer, Wokingham.

